

12,000,000 PHONES IN UNITED STATES

One for Every Nine Persons and Calls Number Billions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 12.—The number of telephones in use in the United States at the close of the calendar year, 1917, was 11,713,228—1 to every 9 persons, or every two families; and the number of calls made during the year is estimated at 21,842,000,000, an average of more than 200 for every man, woman, and child in the country. These are among the interesting features of a preliminary report on the telephone industry of the United States, just made public by Director Sam L. Rogers, of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. This report was prepared under the supervision of Mr. Eugene F. Hartley, Chief Statistician for Manufactures.

In addition to statistics for 1917, the report presents comparative figures for 1912 and 1907, with percentages of increase. The statistics for 1917 cover the Bell Telephone System—comprising all lines operated by the American Telephone and Telegraph company and its associated companies; independent telephone systems reporting annual incomes of more than \$5,000; and independent telephone systems, including rural lines, reporting incomes of less than \$5,000. They do not, however, include data for telephone lines maintained by steam and electric railways for use in connection with the operation of their roads; private lines in hotels, factories, etc.; or lines operated by Federal, state, or municipal offices.

Considerable increases are shown for both five-year periods, 1912-1917 and 1907-1912, covered by the report. The increase in the amount of business done was considerably greater during the later five-year period than during the earlier, but the increase in the wire mileage and the number of telephones was proportionately, though not absolutely, greater during the earlier period. During the five-year period 1912-1917 the number of systems or companies increased from 32,223 to 53,085, or at the rate of 64.5 per cent., as against 40.3 per cent. for the preceding five years. The wire mileage increased during the same period from 20,248,325 to 28,827,091, or by 42.4 per cent., as against 55.8 per cent. for the preceding five-year period. The number of telephones increased from 8,729,592 to 11,713,228, or at the rate of 34.2 per cent., as compared with 42.7 per cent. for the five years 1907-1912. The estimated number of messages or talks increased from 17,736,000,000 to 21,842,000,000, or by 59 per cent., as compared with 20.8 per cent. for the five years preceding. The total number of employees in 1917 was 262,622, an increase of 43.2 per cent. as compared with 1912; and their salaries and wages aggregated \$175,668,299, an increase of 82.9 per cent. over the 1912 figure. The income from all sources in 1917 amounted to \$391,476,926, an increase of 53.5 per cent. over 1912; and the expenses and fixed charges were \$319,116,293, or 56.6 per cent. more than in 1912. The total value of plant equipment in 1917 amounted to \$1,492,230,081, an increase of 32.8 per cent. as compared with 1912. For the ten-year period 1907-1917 the percentages of increase in the more important items covered by the table were: Salary and wage payments, 157.3; expenses and fixed charges, 126.6; wire mileage, 121.8; total income, 112.2; number of messages or talks, 92.1; number of telephones, 91.4; number of employees, 82.3; value of plant and equipment, 80.8.

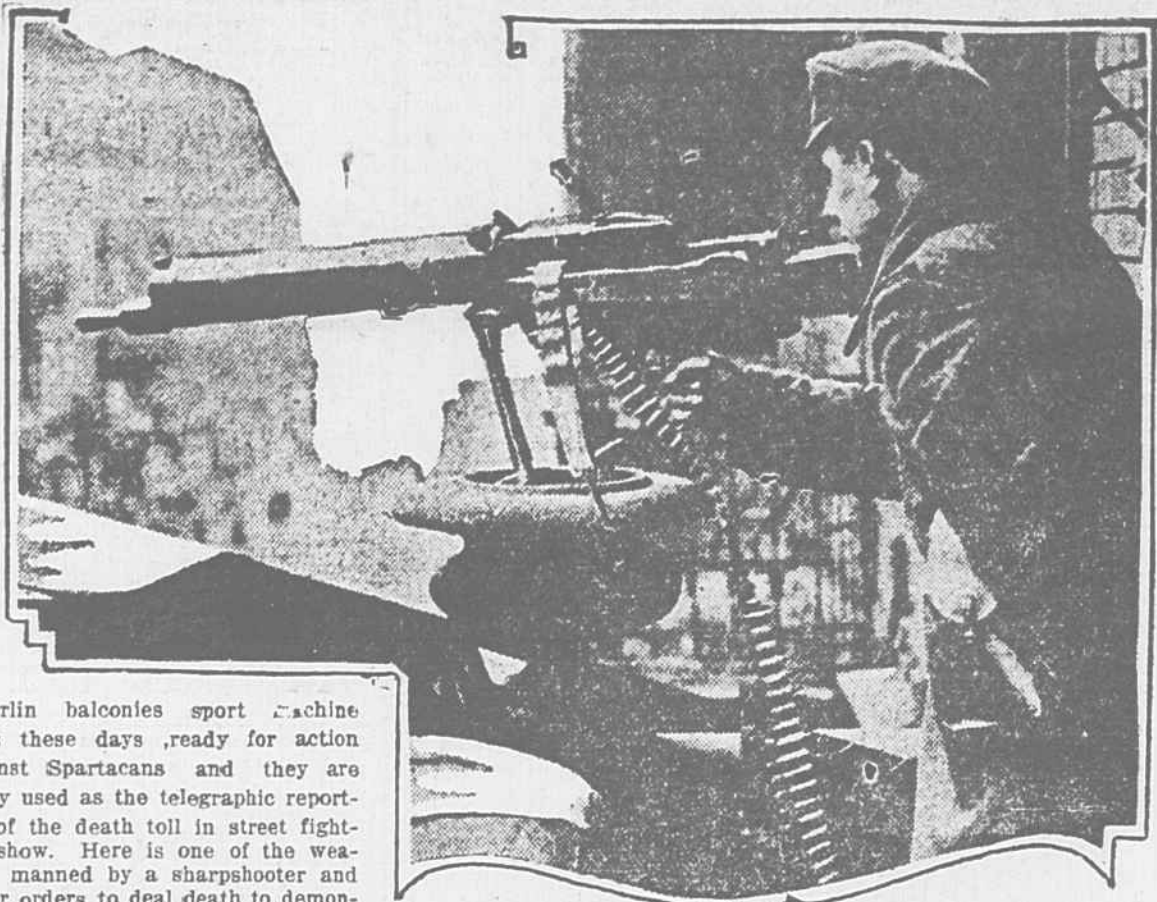
The Bell Telephone System reported, for 1917, 62.6 per cent. of the total number of telephones, 80.3 per cent. of the total wire mileage, and 76.4 per cent. of the total value of plant and equipment. In addition to the 7,326,862 telephones directly owned by this system, there were 3,164,902 independently owned telephones which were connected with the Bell lines and exchanges for the interchange of local and long-distance service. The Bell service, therefore, reaches 10,491,764 telephones, or 89.6 per cent. of the total number reported.

Evening Chat

The Varied Experiences of Coal Run. Just now workmen are very busy cleaning Coal Run under the new bridge and the place presents a strange appearance after these many months of bustling life in the toy village. So often people stopped to look down, before the old bridge was closed, during the building of the camp house. So many men down below—tiny bridges spanning the small stream there—lights soon afterwards gleaming every night in the windows of the house; all gave a vivid impression of life below far removed from life in the world up above. When soon afterwards, Fairmonters were excluded from the fine viewpoint of the old bridge and began wearily descending many steps; where giddily swinging in the center of the temporary frame structure which carried one across—if one's steam didn't give out—still another bird's-eye view could be obtained; one's impressions took on a new slant. Much lumber, quantities of stone, a railroad track, even a train poking her inquisitive nose into the new territory—all started one to dreaming of what might be done some day with Coal Run.

When the first train crept stealthily along the edge of Coal Run hollow, people said: "See what has happened. Soon Fairmont will be cut in two and perhaps other trains will come through there. Maybe it will be come a shipping yard from the main railway not so far distant—surely we're not to have the smoke and grime of travel brought straight to our front doors. With trains running through, smoke

BERLIN BALCONIES MACHINE GUN NESTS



Berlin balconies sport machine guns these days, ready for action against Spartans and they are freely used as the telegraphic reporters of the death toll in street fighting show. Here is one of the weapons manned by a sharpshooter and under orders to deal death to demonstrators against the government.

from them would permeate every home for miles around." So many were worried. One never knows what may happen.

It was with the deepest satisfaction when the new bridge was finished, that we saw the objectionable train slide quietly out and away. The tracks were removed. The debris of all kinds is now being taken away. Bridge workmen, camp home and equipment long with us have all disappeared into the yesterday and gradually the ground so long strewn with every kind of material is presenting a clean appearance. We wonder what is coming next?

A long time ago some ladies in the city planted geraniums in Coal run—but like the fairy tales we read about, those flowers required much of the imagination to bring out their good qualities. Children very often took their lives in their hands leaning over the bridge rail to see whether the nodding bits of color actually existed—and much of the work and expense attending the undertaking was useless. These same ladies, however, did in some miraculous manner rid the hillside here of all rubbish. Today there is nothing objectionable lying on this slope which surely does offer to the careless a fine place from the house windows so near for trash of all kinds. Merely a few sticks and a small amount of paper can be detected from the bridge.

Many suggestions have been made as to what shall be done with this naturally beautiful hollow. Some have suggested that it be filled in entirely and made part of the rest of the city—soon covered with homes. Others want it left as it is with more of those giddy steps built down and a park built at the bottom. This plan might be worked out though it would require many a dollar to do it. The place is damp with running water a great part of the year forming a small, narrow stream in the center. If it were possible to develop its natural beauties, leaving out entirely all artificial additions, Coal Run could be made into one of the most beautiful spots in this part of the country. Trees might be planted to furnish a quiet shade. Rustic bridges might be built. Swings might be placed so that one could catch the breezes in high, dizzy flights—could almost touch the dense, bending foliage which falls so gracefully later in the season along the banks of the run. Rustic benches could be placed out of the sun and on them many a worthy Fairmonter might find a pleasant hour at noon in the midst of natural beauty in which to read, or pass in studying a difficult problem

of business or living. Fairmont needs a library very badly. Why not build one on the banks of Coal Run with easy access from a possible natural park below? Why not combine business sense with imagination and bring something truly different into this city of ours?

us hope if we ever have a park in this vicinity, that the name now attached is changed which at present brings to mind the blackness and sootiness of a very useful commodity instead of this clean bit of nature in the heart of the city. Instead of something black which runs, nearly everyone prefers something clean which stays. Why not change Roal Run to Park of My Heart or Green Glen or most anything to convey to strangers what we have nestling down beneath that beautiful white arched cement bridge, in itself a long exclamation mark laid lengthwise, over what has caused much contemplation and thought;—over first a hollow of merely wild growths—over second a sort of improvised city garden within an inappropriate setting—and last over the village of working artists who now that the bridge is finished have folded their tents and while we've been thinking of other things, have crept almost away in the night.

TRIUNE.

Mrs. S. T. Smyth is visiting her son, Phillip Vangilder, at this writing. Luther Fletcher was at Fairmont last Thursday and Friday and the roads are in bad shape.

Ben Williams and brother, Walter, are hauling logs to S. D. Smyth's saw mill.

Ruth Fletcher was calling on Lina Johnson Sunday last.

Mearl Moran was calling on friends last Friday at White Day.

S. K. Poe was calling on T. N. Robe one night last week.

Larney Garlow was hauling lumber last Saturday.

G. W. Stevens was calling on Luther Fletcher last Sunday.

Mrs. Arley Regger was visiting her parents, B. F. Stevens, a few days last week.

The little laughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Fletcher still has a bad neck. Lester Fletcher was calling on Donald Rumble Sunday night last.

Born, yesterday, to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Springer at their home in Guffey street, a son. Mrs. Springer was formerly Miss Ethel Barnes, a daughter of Mrs. Lou Barnes, of Edgemont.

BEECHWOOD

This town and vicinity were hit hard by the "flu" recently. The teacher, J. F. Gregory, and wife were seriously ill for two weeks but now are convalescent.

Jesse Hain passed away recently being a victim of this dreadful malady, leaving a wife and two small children. Interment was made in the Catawba cemetery. We deeply sympathize with the bereaved family.

Miss Leona Powell and Russell Richards were married in Uniontown Pa., recently. We extend congratulations and wish them great success in life.

Born, recently, to Mr. and Mrs. John Coppel, a fine boy baby.

Lonnie Sapp moved here recently to work at the Buttermore mines.

Messrs. Henry Poling and Wesley Anderson were visiting the school recently.

Mrs. Chas. Fowler made a flying trip to Morgantown last Saturday to see the movies.

Lonnie Sapp's little boy who has been sick so long from pneumonia, is now recovering.

AN INCIPIENT FINANCIER.

Little Elsie, seeing her parents weighing the new baby, inquired what they were doing that for, and her father, in fun, said that Uncle Bob had taken a fancy to baby and wanted to buy him at a dollar an ounce.

"You're not going to sell him, are you papa?" she asked.

"Of course not," he answered, proud to see that his little girl loved her brother.

"No. Keep him until he gets bigger," Elsie went on; he'll fetch more money then."—Boston Transcript

TOO WELL RECOMMENDED.

You say you have good references? Yes, ma'am. I have a hundred splendid references.

And how long have you been in domestic service? Two years, ma'am. — Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

STILL AT THE POST.

How are you coming along with the war books? Not very well; you see, I made a bet that I would read them all alphabetically.

Well? And A is for aviation.

EAST SIDE NEWS

Splendid Meeting of McElfresh Class.

A very interesting meeting of the McElfresh class of the Diamond street church was held last evening at the home of Mrs. A. D. Hutchinson in Diamond street. A large number were in attendance at the meeting and two new members were received at the meeting. The following program was given:

Song, by class; prayer, by Mrs. F. A. Baker; Scripture reading by the teacher, Earl J. McElfresh; business session. Following this a talk was given by the pastor, Rev. J. Elbert Wells in which he commended the members of the class for their diligence in attending and keeping up their social meetings, in attending Sunday school, in which work and their spiritual influence in the church etc. The talk was very much enjoyed by all present. Refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. A. D. Hutchinson, Miss Jessie Rager, Mrs. Dent Powell, and Mrs. D. T. Gregory. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Bailey Nuzum in Bridge street the first Tuesday in April.

At Home.

The "At Home" given by Rev. and Mrs. J. Elbert Wells Monday evening to the new members of the Diamond street church was a most delightful informal event and was attended by a large number of the new members. Some new and interesting contests were put on and the prize winners were Miss Gussie Nealon, L. W. Ratcliff and Mrs. C. F. Pride. Several excellent musical numbers were given during the evening also followed by a social hour during which a two course luncheon was served. Mr. and Mrs. Wells were assisted in entertaining their guests of Mrs. Cora Morrow and Mrs. J. C. Stealey.

Gone to Middletown, O.

Bernard Costillow, who recently returned from France, where he served several months in the American artillery and has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Costillow in Diamond street since his return left last evening for Middletown, O., where he was employed before enlisting in the army. Mr. and Mrs. Costillow accompanied him to Middletown and will spend some time there visiting relatives.

Junior Kings Heralds.

There was a large attendance at the meeting of the Junior King's Heralds which was held Tuesday afternoon at the diamond street church. The lesson was most interesting and enjoyed by the young folks. A new member was received into the society at this meeting.

Aid Society.

The Aid society of the Palatine Baptist church will have a meeting on Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Jesse Jamison in Morgantown avenue.

W. C. T. U.

A business meeting of the W. C. T. U. was held Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. T. D. Harden in Water street. Several matters of business were brought before the members and disposed of satisfactorily. The mothers' meeting will be held in two weeks.

W. L. Douglas Shoes and Oxfords \$3.00 to \$8.00

ARE ALWAYS WORTH THE PRICE PAID FOR THEM

The Actual Value is Determined and the Retail Price Fixed at the Factory before W. L. Douglas' Name and the Retail Price is stamped on the bottom. Every Pair of Shoes is marked in Plain Figures and You Never Need ask "What is the Price?"

NEW SPRING STYLES NOW SHOWING AT

BLUMBERG BROS CO
UNDERSELLING STORE
MAIN ST. OPPOSITE COURTHOUSE
FAIRMONT, W. VA.

Originators and Leaders of Low Prices in Fairmont.

at the home of Mrs. Cora Morrow in State street.

Personals.

Mrs. Jennie Kimble, who has been the guest of her brother, Mrs. F. A. Baker and brother, Mr. Hendrix, in State street, has returned to her home at Littleton.

Miss Lorena Staats, of Spencer, spent Tuesday with Rev. and Mrs. J. Elbert Wells at the parsonage.

Mrs. O. C. Phillips, of Meadowdale, went to Jollytown, Pa., today to visit her sister, Mrs. Agnes Hennon.

Mrs. J. D. Cox, of Morgantown avenue, is recovering from a long illness though still unable to be out.

Mildred, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Garlow, of Cochrane street, is very ill.

Mrs. Coffman, of Gypsy Grave, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ulysses Doolittle, in Morgantown avenue.

CLASSIFIED.

"I can read Cholly like a book."
"You're foolish to strain your eyes over a small type."—Boston Transcript.

HAVE YOUR OWN HOTBED

Raise your own tomato, cabbage and pepper plants, then you will know what kind you are going to have. An ordinary store box with a glass cover is plenty large enough for most home gardeners. The West Virginian still has a few window sashes 4x2, good heavy glass, that it will sell for about half what you would have to pay for them new. Call Mr. Mapel at The West Virginian Office, phone 1105.

What will you take

for your old car? Not enough. Mark it up \$100.

A dress of Murphy Dacote Enamel will make it look like new.

It's easy to apply—costs little—you can paint the car this afternoon and run it out tomorrow.

Murphy Dacote Motor Car Enamels



Hall Hardware Co.
109 Adams St.

Bake More Save More

More and more, thoughtful women are decreasing the cost of living by increasing the variety of their home baking. They have learned to bake the Royal way with fewer eggs. They have found that more baked foods mean less meat. They have further discovered that their baking keeps fresh longer when made with

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Absolutely Pure

In many recipes, only half as many eggs are required, in some none at all, if an additional quantity of Royal Baking Powder is used, about a teaspoonful in place of each egg omitted.

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Leaves No Bitter Taste

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\$15 on every Suit because our prices are lowest, to say nothing about the EXTRA FREE TROUSERS WHICH MAKES YOUR SUIT LAST TWICE AS LONG AS USUAL. You will be glad to wear a "Zaslaff" Suit but if not satisfied for an reason we always stand ready to make the matter right.

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